BIRCH BARK BASKET

MARCH 29, 2013 BY: TAMARA KELLY23 COMMENTS

Feeling inspired by nature? I was when I came up with the Birch Bark Basket! This easy crochet pattern is almost more of a technique and tutorial – you can crochet big baskets, small baskets, gift baskets… You get the idea! And each one will have you thinking of a walk in the woods.

This crochet basket pattern as written is pretty big – I find it to be a great storage basket for my other current yarn project! And better looking than plastic baskets too. At about 43″ around, it holds a lot! But this pattern is super easy to downsize. Just crochet the base to the dimensions you desire and work the sides using the technique outlined below.

Birch Bark Basket Crochet Pattern

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- US – I, 5.5mm hook
- 900-1000 yds Worsted or Aran weight yarn, as follows: Color A – 826 yds (Caron One Pound in Lace shown); Color B – 100 yds (Caron One Pound in Espresso shown)
- 1 stitch marker

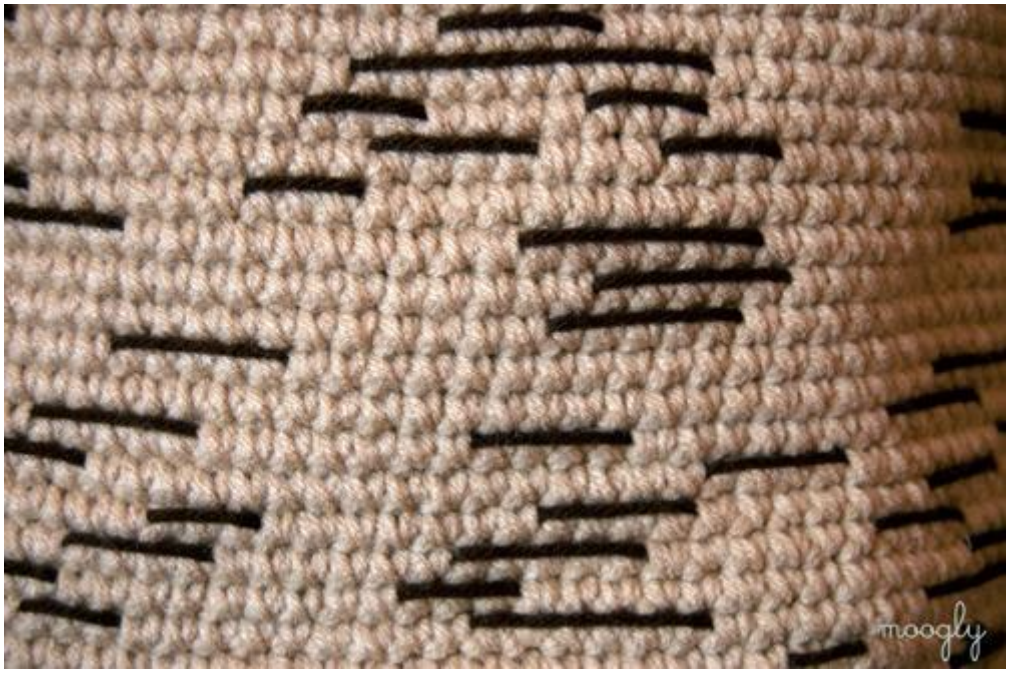
How to Create the Birch Bark Crochet Stitch Pattern:

This stitch pattern is made using single crochet stitches, and is a sort of offshoot of tapestry crochet. The main color (Color A) is held doubled (two strands held and worked as together as if they were one), and worked in single crochet stitches. Each stitch is worked over a

single strand of Color B, enclosing and hiding it behind, or in back of the row. Color B might peek out from the back, but shouldn't be visible from the outside of the basket.

Then, when you wish to add a stripe of Color B to the pattern, you pull the strand to the front of your work and let it hang. Continue making sc stitches as before, with Color B hanging loose in front of your work. This could be for just 1 stitch, or it could be for as many as 10 – it's up to you! Then when the stripe is done, pull Color B back behind the next stitch and continue as before, enclosing it in each stitch. Be sure to give a tug to Color B once in a while to make sure it doesn't sag – but don't pull so tight that the main color fabric buckles either.

The length of each stripe and it's placement is completely up to you. Birch bark trees have random (to our eyes) stripes, and like a tree, your basket should be your own unique work of art! Before starting mine, I looked at pictures of birch trees for inspiration, and then just proceeded to add stripes whenever I thought it was a good time to add them. There's no right or wrong to this, so have fun!



Instructions for the Base of the Basket:

Row 1: Holding yarn from both ends of the skein of Color A together, ch 36. Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and each remaining ch. Turn. (35 sts)

Row 2 – 40 (or until roughly square): Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (35 sts)

Instructions for the Sides of the Basket:

Round 1: Ch 1, sc in each st across row (place marker in first st and move up with each row), then turning to work into the left edge, sc 36 sts across, then turning again sc in each starting ch, then turning once more, sc 36 sts into other row edges. Join with a sl st to first sc made in this round. (142 sts) **NOTE:** *Exact st count isn't actually important here so much as using the right number of stitches for the size basket you're making and your own gauge. If it works and looks better to use a different number, then please do!*

Round 2: Ch 1, and laying the end of Color B along the inside of the basket, sc evenly all around the basket, holding Color B behind the stitches and working over it to enclose it in each st. Join to first sc of round with a sl st.

Round 3 – 29 (or until basket is desired height): Ch 1 and sc in each st around, enclosing Color B as before, except when bringing Color B forward to create birch bark pattern (see above for more information on this technique). Join each round with a sl st in the first sc of the round. **NOTE:** *On Rounds 13 and 26 I joined to the 2nd sc of the round and then in Rounds 14 and 27 I worked a st into the sl st. This technique maintained the st count while pulling the joining line back to the left. This is optional, but if you do not do this you'll need to adjust the placement of the handles from the stitch counts listed below.*

Instructions for Making the Handles (optional):

Round 30: Ch 1, sc in the first 12 sts of the round, ch 11, skip the next 11 sts, sc in the next 60 sts, ch 11, skip the next 11 sts, sc in the last 48 sts. **NOTE:** *These are the stitch counts that worked out for me, if you are making a different size or didn't adjust the joining line as noted above, you will need to move the handles around to suit your project.*

Round 31: Ch 1, sc in each st and ch to end. Join with a sl st in first sc.

Round 32: Ch 1, sc evenly around. Join with a sl st in first sc.

Round 33: Ch 1, sl st in 2nd st and each st around. Break yarn and use seamless join to finish off.

Easy, chic, and right on trend in home decor. This crochet basket looks great in a cabin in the woods or in a modern loft – and in a suburban split level in Iowa. The neutral colors and inspired by nature design make it a really neutral piece that still has lots of character. But you don't have to take my color suggestions! This pattern would be super fun in bright colors too – my head is filled with possibilities, and I know yours is too. So tell me what you think! I love reading your comments! And if you make a Birch Bark Basket, hop over to the Moogly Facebook page and share a photo! We'd love to see it!

PS – Curious about the WIP inside the basket? That's a Blackberry Salad Striped Baby Blanket – another free crochet pattern here on Moogly! This one is made in Knitpicks Comfy Worsted in Bison, Peapod, Carrot, Marlin, Sea Foam, White, and Lilac.

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